

REMARKS

There are now pending in this application claims 1 and 3-11, of which claim 1 is independent. Claim 2 has been cancelled without prejudice or waiver of its subject matter. No claims have been added.

In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, favorable reconsideration and allowance of the above application are respectfully sought.

The invention as set forth in independent claim 1 is directed to a sheet feed device comprising a door for supporting one of the rollers of a feed roller pair, mounted on an apparatus main body so as to be opened or closed such that one roller is pressured against the other roller of the feed roller pair provided in the apparatus main body at the time the door is closed. The invention is comprised of an outer door supported rotatably by a rotation access provided on a side of the feed roller pair and a back side of the apparatus main body and an inner door for supporting one of the rollers of the feed roller pair, supported rotatably with respect to the outer door. The invention is characterized in that the one roller of the feed roller pair is separated from the other roller by substantial parallel movement until the outer door is opened at a prescribed angle, and after the outer door is opened at the prescribed angle, the inner door is rotated while maintaining a constant angle with respect to the outer door in connection with the rotation of the outer door.

Claims 1-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Morrison (U.S. Patent No. 3,661,383) in view of Arai (U.S. Patent No. 6,145,828). The rejections are respectfully traversed.

As the Examiner will appreciate, independent claim 1 has been amended in a manner which incorporates the features of claim 2. In addition, claim 1 has been amended to recite that the outer door is supported rotatably by a rotation access provided on one side of the feed roller pair. More specifically, and with reference to the specification, there is a door 1 which can be removed from an apparatus main body 101, moves to pivot on an access (corresponding outer hinge shaft 1a) in a backside part of the main body 101.

If the feed roller 5 were to move simply to rotate with an outer door 1, an edge of the back side of the feed roller 5 would contact with an edge of the back side of the other feed roller 10, potentially damaging one another. The present invention seeks to solve the aforementioned problems by designing an apparatus wherein one roller of the feed roller pair is separated from the other rollers to move by substantial parallel movement until the outer door is opened at a prescribed angle, and after the outer door is opened at the prescribed angle, the inner door is rotated while maintaining a constant angle with respect to the outer door in connection with the rotation of the outer door.

Applicants respectfully submit that neither Arai nor Morrison teach or suggest the invention, whether taken individually or in combination.

Arai is directed to a sheet conveying unit with upper and lower conveyors having upper and lower guides and upper and lower conveying rollers, respectively, and both conveyors are open/closable on the main frame. However, the door in Arai, which is understood to correspond to the conveying guide 50, opens in a direction different from that of the present invention. In Arai the main direction of the roller against the pivoting direction of the door is different from the laying direction of the feed roller 5 in Applicant's invention against the

pivoting direction of the outer door 1, the apparatus of Arai does not have problems of the edge portion of the roller on the pivoting side contacting with the other roller.

Morrison uses an arrangement similar to that of Arai with feed rollers 69, 101, and 104 and a hinge pin 62 corresponding to the pivot member.

Accordingly, neither of the applied references is directed to an apparatus of the type to which Applicant's invention is directed, namely one where if the feed roller is allowed to simply move with rotation of the outer door, an edge of that feed roller will move in contact with an edge of the transfer roller so that the two could damage each other. Thus, neither of the applied references incorporates the features of an outer door supported rotatably by a rotation access provided on one side of the feed roller pair and a back side of the apparatus main body in combination with the one roller of the feed roller pair being separated from the other roller by substantial parallel movement until the outer door is opened at a prescribed angle.

Applicant respectfully submits that at least independent claim 1 is therefore patentable over the applied art.

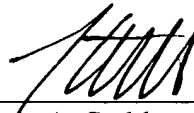
Claim 1 was also rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. As the Examiner will appreciate, the objected to language has been eliminated. Withdrawal of the rejection is therefore respectfully sought.

Claims 3-11 each depend from claim 1 and are therefore patentable over the art of record for reasons noted above with respect to claim 1. In addition, each recite features of the invention still further distinguishing it from the applied art. Favorable and independent consideration thereof is respectfully sought.

Applicant respectfully submits that all outstanding matters in this application have been addressed and that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the above-identified application is respectfully sought.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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